

# Spark Gap

Vol. 31, Issue 4, April 2014 *MARC - Serving Central Indiana Communities for thirty-one years*

## On Our MARC...

I'm glad this is April for many reasons. Warmer weather, longer days and most of all, tax season soon to be over to where we can enjoy the longer days and warmer weather. However, with this being April, it means that severe weather is upon us. I'm hoping that the people that attended the Severe Weather class will have some information for us.

Again, I would like to thank all those that are helping with the Tech Class for the Boy Scouts. It is my understanding that there are still 15 Boy Scouts and 4 fathers hanging in there for the class. Andrew has informed me that they will be testing on April 30<sup>th</sup> and would appreciate anyone wanting to help with the testing. Please contact Andrew N9AWM at [andy@indylinus.org](mailto:andy@indylinus.org).

The IT Team is looking for any old information on the Club. They would like to know when the repeater went online and other milestones of the Club. If anyone can help, please email [it@midstatehams.org](mailto:it@midstatehams.org). The club officers, would like to know what topics you would like to see us schedule speakers for. I realize that everyone has different likes and knowledge but if we could meet in the middle for speakers, it would help the club and hopefully bring back old members that we haven't seen for a while. A reminder, Indiana QSO party is May 3<sup>rd</sup> and the Strawberry Fest is June 7<sup>th</sup>. Mark your calendars.

Jacki, KI6QOG  
President

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## ARRL Calls for Visible Enforcement of FCC Rules

Responding to an FCC request for comments on improving how the Commission functions (GN Docket 14-25), the ARRL has called for more timely and visible enforcement of the FCC's rules, especially regarding the amateur service.

According to the *ARRL Letter*, changes in FCC procedures over the past five years restricting the public release of information about enforcement actions has resulted in "a widespread, albeit inaccurate, public perception that there is no active enforcement in our service." That perception, said the League, has resulted in "unacceptable increases in rule violations" because people think they won't be held accountable.

ARRL Bulletin 4/2014

# Special Event Stations to Mark International Marconi Day

A few dozen special event stations will take to the air April 26, 0000 UTC to 2359 UTC, to commemorate **International Marconi Day** (IMD). Among them will be GB4IMD, in Cornwall, England, OE14M, in Vienna, Austria, IY0IMD in Italy, VO1AA, on Signal Hill in St Johns, Newfoundland, VK2IMD in Australia, and WA1WCC on Cape Cod, Massachusetts. All stations planning to participate are urged to **register**. A **list** of registered participants is on the IMD 2014 website.

International Marconi Day is a 24 hour Amateur Radio event held annually to celebrate the birth of Guglielmo Marconi on April 15, 1874. IMD is held each year on a Saturday close to Marconi's birthday, with Amateur Radio stations on the air from around the world, including some **Award Stations** operating from historically significant sites.

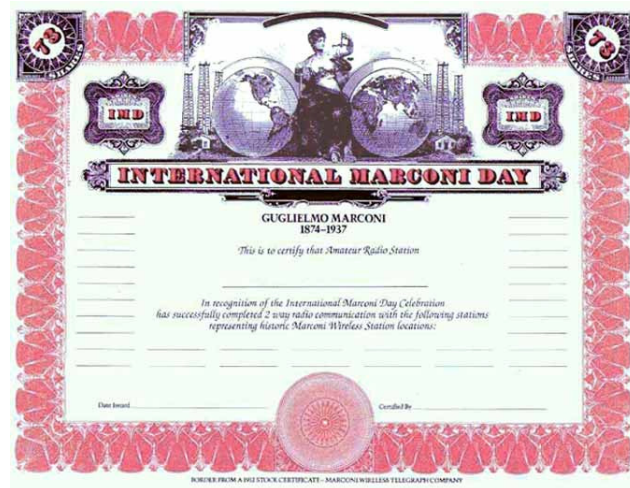
The event is not a contest; it is an opportunity for amateurs around the world to make point-to-point contact with historic Marconi sites using HF communications techniques similar to those used by Marconi, and to earn an award certificate for working or hearing a requisite number of Marconi stations. — *Thanks to The Daily DX; International Marconi Day and the ARRL.*

## QSL Card



source: <http://g4usb.net/IMD/qs1-cards/>

## Collectable Certificate



Source: <http://g4usb.net/IMD/the-award/award-classes/>

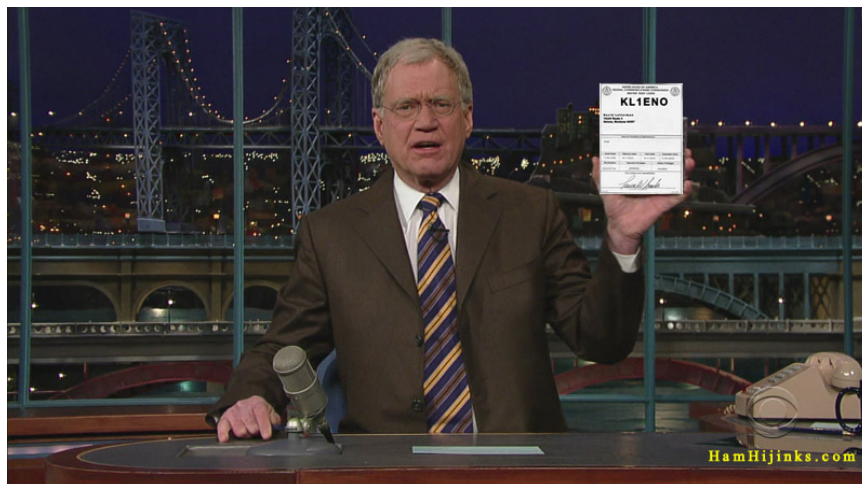
ARRL..... 3/2014

## Letterman Issued Embarrassing Ham Callsign

By WBØRUR, on the scene

**NEW YORK, NY** – After months of studying, practice exams, and thumbing through the latest Ham Radio Outlet catalog, Late Night talk show host and comedian David Letterman has been issued a FCC amateur radio service callsign.

Letterman passed the amateur radio “General Class” exam last Sunday at the Empire State hamfest.



After successfully convincing his wife that he needed a new hobby to occupy his time during his upcoming retirement, Letterman passed the exam with an 86% score.

The Late Night host says despite his accomplishment, he’s disappointed in his callsign.

“I was hoping for something funnier,” says Letterman.

Letterman will join the amateur ranks with the call sign: KL1ENO

FCC spokesman Robert Thorndyke declined comment, except to say, “Wait until you see what we have planned for Conan O’Brien.”

You can work Letterman at 1800 UTC Thursdays when he checks into the Top Ten-Ten Net on 14.242 MHz SSB.

### hamhijinks.com

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## Birthday for the month of April:

KI6QOG ----- JACKI FREDERICK



# Coffee Break Training

In this month's installment of Coffee Break Training, we continue to familiarize ourselves with the Disaster Assistance application process for those affected by a disaster. In this series concluding with the December edition we review the types of assistance that may be made available. Exactly what assistance programs are made available can and will depend on the scope of the disaster and affected area using a compounded formula using in part insured losses versus un-insured losses. Here is the news release issued by FEMA Region V relating to the tornado response in Northern Illinois from 2013.

OBJECTIVE: Familiarize student with types of programs available for assistance

## Federal Aid Programs for the State of Illinois and Indiana Disaster Recovery

Main Content

Release date: November 26, 2013

Release Number: HQ-13-125FactSheet

Following is a summary of key federal disaster aid programs that can be made available *as needed and warranted* under President Obama's major disaster declaration issued for Illinois.

### Assistance for Affected Individuals and Families Can Include *as Required*:

- Rental payments for temporary housing for those whose homes are unlivable. Initial assistance may be provided for up to three months for homeowners and at least one month for renters. Assistance may be extended if requested after the initial period based on a review of individual applicant requirements. *(Source: FEMA funded and administered.)*
- Grants for home repairs and replacement of essential household items not covered by insurance to make damaged dwellings safe, sanitary and functional. *(Source: FEMA funded and administered.)*
- Grants to replace personal property and help meet medical, dental, funeral, transportation and other serious disaster-related needs not covered by insurance or other federal, state and charitable aid programs. *(Source: FEMA funded at 75 percent of total eligible costs; 25 percent funded by the state.)*
- Unemployment payments up to 26 weeks for workers who temporarily lost jobs because of the disaster and who do not qualify for state benefits, such as self-employed individuals. *(Source: FEMA funded; state administered.)*
- Low-interest loans to cover residential losses not fully compensated by insurance. Loans available up to \$200,000 for primary residence; \$40,000 for personal property, including renter losses. Loans available up to \$2 million for business property losses not fully compensated by insurance. *(Source: U.S. Small Business Administration.)*
- Loans up to \$2 million for small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives and most private, non-profit organizations of all sizes that have suffered disaster-related cash flow problems and need funds for working capital to recover from the disaster's adverse economic impact. This loan in combination with a property loss loan cannot exceed a total of \$2 million. *(Source: U.S. Small Business Administration.)*
- Loans up to \$500,000 for farmers, ranchers and aquaculture operators to cover production and property losses, excluding primary residence. *(Source: Farm Service Agency, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture.)*
- Other relief programs: Crisis counseling for those traumatized by the disaster; income tax assistance for filing casualty losses; advisory assistance for legal, veterans' benefits and social security matters.

## How to Apply for Assistance:

- Affected individuals and business owners in designated areas can begin the disaster application process by registering online at [www.DisasterAssistance.gov](http://www.DisasterAssistance.gov) or by calling 1-800-621-FEMA (3362) or by web enabled mobile device at m.fema.gov. Disaster assistance applicants, who have a speech disability or hearing loss and use TTY, should call 1-800-462-7585 directly; for those who use 711 or Video Relay Service (VRS), call 1-800-621-3362. The toll-free telephone numbers will operate from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. (local time) seven days a week until further notice. Applicants registering for aid should be prepared to provide basic information about themselves (name, permanent address, phone number), insurance coverage and any other information to help substantiate losses.

*FEMA's mission is to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards.*

Follow FEMA online at <http://blog.fema.gov>, [www.twitter.com/fema](http://www.twitter.com/fema), [www.facebook.com/fema](http://www.facebook.com/fema), and [www.youtube.com/fema](http://www.youtube.com/fema). Also, follow Administrator Craig Fugate's activities at [www.twitter.com/craigatfema](http://www.twitter.com/craigatfema). The social media links provided are for reference only. FEMA does not endorse any non-government websites, companies or applications.

Last Updated: November 26, 2013 - 21:44

State/Tribal Government or Region: [Illinois](#)

Related Disaster: [Illinois Severe Storms, Straight-line Winds, and Tornadoes](#)

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## CW .... Indiana Slow Speed Traffic/Training Net

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The Indiana slow speed cw traffic/training net meets every evening at 7PM local time on 3.535 MHZ. For more information go to [www.indianaslow.net](http://www.indianaslow.net) and check it out. Net check-in and Q signals that are used on cw nets can be found at that site.

..... Sam WA9VBG

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# The Strange of Don Miller

Don Miller, W9NTP, is well-known in amateur radio as a pioneer in slow-scan TV techniques and a leader in promoting the use of the mode. Back in 1972, he was recognized for his efforts as Dayton's Radio Amateur of the Year. Don has also traveled extensively and in the course of his travels over the past eight decades, has amassed a huge collection of artifacts from all over the world. These artifacts, which had been stored at Don's home in Waldron, Indiana, are now in the hands of the FBI, which seized the entire collection in early April, trying to determine if any of the materials had been obtained or imported illegally.

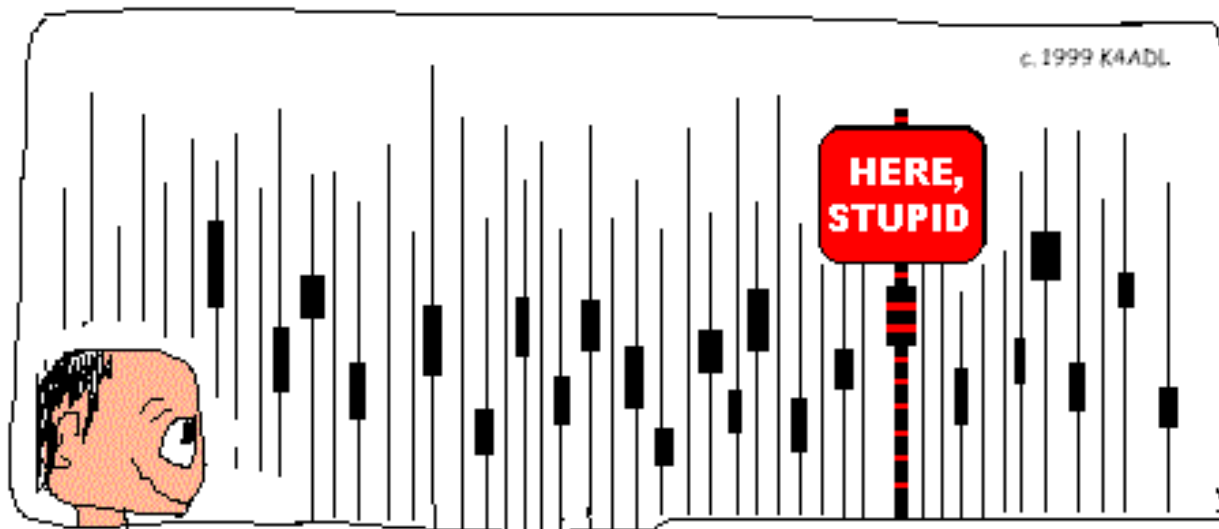
Several Indiana newspapers and TV stations showed photos of a massive FBI presence outside Miller's home, with tents set up around his property and a variety of vehicles. An FBI spokesman told CBS News.com that neither the total number of items in Miller's collection nor their monetary value had been determined, but said "the cultural value of these artifacts is immeasurable."

The FBI is cataloging each item and trying to determine where and when each one was obtained, which is important because some may have been collected before various laws and treaties regarding cultural artifacts took effect. As of our deadline, Miller had not been charged with any offense, and he told CBS he was cooperating with the FBI but maintained that he "absolutely" had rightful ownership of everything in his collection.

Posted by [CQ Newsroom](#)

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OWING TO HIS EXCELLENT BUT SOMEWHAT SELF-EFFACING SIGNMAKING SKILLS,  
LEONARD QUICKLY LOCATES HIS VEHICLE AT THE DAYTON HAMFEST.



# 2014 HAMFESTS

## Upcoming Hamfest Info

**05/16-17-18/2014** | [Dayton Hamvention](#)

**Location:** HARA Arena

**Type:** ARRL Hamfest

**Website:** <http://hamvention.org>

**Sponsor:** Dayton Amateur Radio Association

**07/12/2014** | [Indianapolis Hamfest](#)

**Location:** Indianapolis, IN

**Type:** ARRL Hamfest

**Sponsor:** Indianapolis Amateur Radio Association

**Website:** <http://indyhamfest.com>

**08/09/2014** | [Angola Hamfest](#)

**Location:** Angola, IN

**Type:** ARRL Hamfest

**Sponsor:** Land of Lakes Amateur Radio Club

**Website:** <http://www.llarc.org>

**09/20/2014** | [Hancock ARC Hamfest](#)

**Location:** Greenfield, IN

**Type:** ARRL Hamfest

**Sponsor:** Hancock Amateur Radio Club of Hancock County

**Website:** <http://www.w9atg.org>

**10/04/2014** | [Hoosier Hills Hamfest](#)

**Location:** Mitchell, IN

**Type:** ARRL Hamfest

**Sponsor:** Hoosier Hills Ham Club

**Website:** <http://www.w9qyq.org/hamfest>

**11/15/2014** | [Indiana State Convention \(Fort Wayne Hamfest & Computer Expo\)](#)

**Location:** Fort Wayne, IN

**Type:** ARRL Convention

**Sponsor:** Allen County Amateur Radio Technical Society

**Website:** <http://www.fortwaynehamfest.com>



## MID-STATE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club meets the THIRD SATURDAY of each month in the basement of the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, Indiana 46131.

See our website, [www.midstatehams.org](http://www.midstatehams.org), for maps on how to get to our meeting.

Everyone is welcome; you do not have to be a HAM to attend our meetings or a member of the club.

**WA9RDF**  
**Repeater**  
**146.835/**  
**146.235 MHz**  
**151.4 Hz PL Tone**

**Club Officers:**  
**President: Jacki Frederick – KI6QOG**  
**Vice President: Dave Daily – KB9LOT**  
**Secretary: Rhonda Curtis– WS9H**  
**Treasurer: Linda Harshbarger – KC9GCH**  
**Repeater Trustee: Steve Brown – N9LC**

**Weekly Net: Sunday evening 7:00 PM ARES/RACES members and ALL RADIO AMATEURS**

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***The Official Newsletter of the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club***

***P.O. Box 836***  
***Franklin, Indiana***  
***46131***

***Editor: Robert LaGrange N9SIU***

***Please send your articles to my email [n9siu@yahoo.com](mailto:n9siu@yahoo.com) no later than the 3<sup>rd</sup> of the month***

